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Jan. 1951

**RUSSWARD**  
**Saintpaulia Growers**

**JONESBORO, ARK.**

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# News Letter

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January, 1951

Dear Friends:

A word of sincere thanks to the many violet friends who remembered us with their personal cards and notes at the holiday season. It is indeed heart-warming to know that you thought of us! Thanks a million.

More questions about growing violets from seed:

Q. Stem wilted long before the seed was ripe. Why? Mrs. C.E.L., Winner, S. Dakota.

A. Probably due to insufficient fertilizing in the first place. Next time, be positive that the stigma is well-coated with pollen.

Q. I have two violets full of seed. How long does it take for them to ripen? Mrs. O.R.H., Dublin, Virginia.

A. If fertilized in the spring, about four months. If fertilizing is done in the late fall or winter, more like ten months.

Q. Please send details on how to fix soil for planting seed, also general care of seed after planted. Mrs. H. S., Ridgeway, Missouri.

A. Suggest planting seed in mason jar set on its side, with about an inch of sterile sand or vermiculite (fine). Moisten. Sprinkle seed over area from the blade of a knife. Place cap on jar. If moisture condenses inside the jar, remove the cap for about 30 minutes. As soon as seeds germinate, begin feedings with mild Hyponex solution, leaving cap off at all times. When seedlings are large enough to handle, lift out gently with knife-blade and pot in 2-inch pots.

Q. How can I tell a Blue Boy from a Blue Girl? Mrs. C.F.S., Nebraska.

A. Blue Girl has scalloped leaves. white spot at base of leaf.

Q. Why do lower leaves curl and hang limp around the pot, especially the pink one? Mrs. C.H.B., Alabama.

A. Mineral salt deposits on the rim of the pot often account for a disintegration of the leaves resting thereon. Arrange layer of aluminum foil around the edge of the pot, or coat the rim of the pot with paraffin. Pink varieties just naturally a little more anemic than the blues.

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Q. Last summer I put some of my violets out under a shrub and something chewed on them. Ate large holes in the leaves and the flowers. What could this have been? Mrs. F.T., Tennessee.

A. Could have been rabbits, mice, or grasshoppers. You might coat them with a dusting of arsenate of lead if you want to do it again next summer.

Q. On the stem, usually starting close to the crown, on some of my largest plants, there are small white specks. At first I thought it was mealy-bug, but they are too small. Have treated these places with alcohol, but no results. Mrs. M.M.L., North Carolina.

A. Have known of at least one instance where an African Violet was attacked by Euonymous Scale. Pretty rare, though, evidently. This might be what you have. Can warn you that it will be pesky to get rid of. Repeated (REPEATED, THAT IS) sprayings with nicotine sulphate might clear it up.

Q. What is NNOR dip? Mrs. H.J., Kansas.

A. NNOR is an insecticide with a rotenone content. It clears up most violet pests without burning leaves or foilage. Because it is so difficult to reach every little nook of an African Violet plant by spraying, many collectors mix the spray in a pail, and dip the entire plant in the solution. Keep the plant in a shady place until it is thoroughly dry. We have the six-ounce size of this insecticide at \$1.00.

Q. Can garden fertilizer be used in the potting mixture? Mrs. O.T., Virginia.

A. Sure. Remember that a lot of those chemical fertilizers are awfully strong, though.

Q. I have a Blue Boy that is just loaded with buds, they get just big enough to open and then fall off. It has never had a blossom. What could I do to get it to blossom? Mrs. E.M.N., Iowa.

A. Probably needs a more humid atmosphere. Arrange your plants in trays of damp sand. Or take the tip of Mrs. E.I., of Kansas City. She keeps her pots on flat blocks of wood in the saucers, and keeps water up to the top of the blocks.

Q. Is the amount of light and sun given what causes the deep color underneath the leaves? Is "Spooned Neptune" a different variety, or should any Neptune spoon under some conditions? Does the content of the soil cause the deeper color or spooning? Mrs. W.L., New Mexico.

A. Light has a tremendous effect on the coloring of foliage. Doubtless the soil has something to do with it, also, but to what extent I couldn't say. Spooning seems to be a lot like foliar variegation. It doesn't propagate through leaf cuttings. Nobody seems to be sure just what causes it. One theory: "If a plant has a hard time coming up, it will spoon."

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# RUSSWARD

## Saintpaulia Growers

## JONESBORO, ARKANSAS



**Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America, Inc.**

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## Cut Along Line



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Q. Please explain a "sport". How obtainable? On patented varieties, what does it mean when they say "asexual reproduction not permitted." Does this mean we can't use seed or cross pollination with the plant? Mrs. C.E.L., South Dakota.

A. Funk and Wagnall's New Practical Standard Dictionary: "SPORT, noun, An animal or plant, or one of its parts, that exhibits sudden and spontaneous variation from the normal type; a mutation." To obtain one, suggest you apply to the Almighty. Asexual reproduction refers to propagation by leaf cuttings or crown division,—on a commercial basis, of course. Since seed pollination is sexual propagation, rather than asexual, it is not forbidden by law.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year!

Cordially,

*"Russ"*

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## PRICE LIST

**Shipping Information**—Plants shipped in 2-inch pots in which they are grown. List price includes packing and mailing costs. All plant orders sent Special Handling. We guarantee safe arrival of plants. Since we assume the responsibility for safe delivery, we reserve the right to ship at our own discretion during the winter months. To avoid disappointment, and to take advantage of frequent price cuts, order from the most recent Price List.

**Amethyst**—Excellent bloomer. Pale lavender blooms in profusion, dark tapered foliage.....\$1.25

**Blue Butterfly**—One of the favorite light blues. Flowers in profusion. Lovely, medium-green tapered foliage, lovely habit .....\$1.75

**Blue Eyed Beauty**—Large white blossom with blue marking on the flower. Husky medium-green foliage. Is remarkable for its vitality and profuse bloom. Three-inch plants .....\$3.00

**Blue Girl**—Scalloped, medium green foliage with white marking at the base of the leaf. Rich blue flower .....\$1.25

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**Blue Pet**—An awfully sweet little miniature. Girl foliage, round, flat leaves with white spot at base. Dark blue flower ..... \$1.25

**Blush Maid**—Exquisite shell pink. Foliage like Pink Beauty, bloom much paler ..... \$1.25

**Diplotricha**—Species. Commonly called Kewensis. Pale green delicate foliage, very small dainty blue flowers ..... \$1.25

**Double Duchess**—Double Blue Boy ..... \$1.25

**Gorgeous**—Most noted for its tendency to spoon. Maroon to red-lavender blooms ..... \$2.00

**Lavender Pink Princess**—New. Simply magnificent lavender blooms the size of quarters. Extra fine foliage, darkish. A lovely plant ..... \$3.00

**Moire**—Variegation of rich purple blossom resembles moire taffeta. Medium green foliage. Unusually fine ..... \$1.75

**Old Lace**—Deeply scalloped leaves. Definitely a miniature. Dark blue flowers carried high and profusely ..... \$1.75

**Periwinkle**—Lovely paler blue. Outer surface of petals much lighter than inner, giving effect of a tiny white border around the flower ..... \$1.75

**Pink Beauty**—Old standby. First of the pinks \$1.25

**Pink Girl**—Scalloped, medium green foliage with the white marking at the base of the leaf. Pink flower ..... \$1.50

**Red Girl**—Rich red blossom with the traditional girl foliage ..... \$1.25

**Rosalie**—Another lovely red best for foliage. Graceful large tapered leaves have tendency to ripple slightly with maturity ..... \$1.50

**Rosie O'Grady**—Finest and loveliest of the pinks to date. Large, pointed leaves, excellent habit. Large pink flower with overlaid rose star.....\$2.00

**Ruffles**—Very unusual. Dark green bronzy-looking leaves. Tapered, dog-tooth foliage with red reverse show some ruffling with age of plant. Bloom pale blue ..... \$1.50

**Sailor Girl**—Finer-type of girl foliage. Pale blue flower ..... \$1.50

**Snow Prince**—You'll be hearing a lot about this one. Brand new. Pure white flowers. Foliage a great deal like Purple Prince—fine, slick. A simply breath-taking variety ..... \$3.00

**Thirty-Two**—An outstanding plant. Fine slick shiny foliage with tendency to spoon. Large blue-lavender flower ..... \$1.25

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